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FROM THE **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

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FY 83 Budget Request for S&E Agencies: \$1.02 Billion

The \$1.02 billion being requested for FY 1983 budget is 4.3 percent more than the 1982 appropriations for USDA's science and education agencies.

Although this budget is restrained and lean, it will adequately support USDA's research and education programs in 1983 and preserve solid bases for important work to continue in the years ahead. It reflects the Administration's continuing support for agricultural research and education and recognition of the essential role these functions have in maintaining the productivity and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture. Here are the planned allocations by agency:

USDA agency	: 1982*	: 1983**	: Year-to-year change	
	-----Million dollars-----			Percent
Agricultural Research Service	434.3	468.6	+34.3	+7.9
Cooperative State Research Service	221.2	232.1	+10.9	+4.7
Extension Service	315.7	311.9	- 3.8	-1.2
National Agricultural Library	8.3	9.0	+ .7	+8.4
Total	979.5	1,021.6	+42.1	+4.3

* = Appropriated funds for fiscal year 1982.

** = Requested amounts for fiscal year 1983.

Legislative Update

Some congressional hearings important to USDA's science and education agencies are coming up. On February 17 and March 9-10, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture will hold oversight hearings on extension. Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.), chairs this subcommittee which will be considering extension's mission and needs in the eighties and nineties. Dr. Mary Nell Greenwood will testify at the hearings.

On March 3-4, Drs. Greenwood, Terry Kinney, Walter Thomas, and I will testify before the House Appropriations Committee about the FY 83 budget for USDA science and education agencies. March 9 is the tentative date for the Senate budget hearings. I will keep you informed on these hearings.

USDA Scientists Elected AAAS Fellows

The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science honored six USDA scientists with the status of Fellow of the Association during last month's annual meeting here. They are:

Edward F. Knipling, Expert in Pest Management for Crop Protection, Crop Sciences Staff, National Program Staff, ARS, Beltsville, Md., retired.

Paul A. Putnam, Director, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, ARS, Beltsville, Md.

John F. Schafer, Research Leader, Cereal Rust Laboratory, ARS, St. Paul, Minn.

George L. Steffens, Plant Physiologist, Fruit and Nut Investigations, ARS, Beltsville, Md.

Norman D. Williams, Research Geneticist, Cereal Genetics and Pathology Research, ARS, Fargo, N. Dak.

Vernon L. Youngs, Research Leader, Spring and Durum Wheat Quality Laboratory, ARS, Fargo, N. Dak.

Strategic and Operational Planning for Agricultural Research

A national planning process is starting in ARS, under the leadership of Dr. Tom Army, ARS deputy administrator, who is heading an ad hoc committee appointed by Dr. Terry Kinney. The process will involve the National Program Staff and many ARS scientists and administrators.

Both the Congress and the Administration have urged ARS to develop a strategic plan as a basis for operational planning. This ARS project will help us to estimate our Nation's future needs for food and fiber and to devise ways to meet these needs.

By March, work on the strategic plan should be completed. It will consist of two parts: Program strategy, including overall recommendations of the scientific community, and the implementation strategy, covering general policy guidelines to be used in managing a 6-year forward plan to meet high-priority research objectives.

By October, the operational plan should be finished. It will set forth details of program operating procedures. And it will identify appropriate scientific research programs that will be continued, as well as new programs needed to achieve ARS's strategic objectives.

Publications Reviewed and User Fees Considered

Since October, a task force headed by USDA Assistant Deputy Secretary Richard Douglas has been examining publications, periodicals, and audiovisual products to determine ways to reduce costs, including eliminating products not essential to the Department's mission, and establishing user fees. The 1981 Farm Bill authorizes the Department "...to furnish upon request, copies of pamphlets, reports, publications and other media prepared by the Department and to charge such fees therefor as the Secretary determines to be reasonable."

The task force has asked for reactions from agency heads regarding users fees. A work group, under the Research and Education Committee that represents all USDA agencies with research components, has suggested modifications concerning user fees for scientific and technical publications. We expect the Department to issue a general policy statement regarding user fees shortly.

Update on the Joint Committee on the Future of Cooperative Extension

The new Joint Committee on the Future of Cooperative Extension held its first meeting late in January. The committee initiated plans for two surveys--one directed to more than 5,000 Extension Service users and the other to extension professionals around the country.

Information received from the surveys should pinpoint changes that have occurred in public attitudes, extension's services, and other areas since the last study was conducted in 1967. Based on these and other findings, the committee will make recommendations on the future role of extension to Secretary John Block and Robert Clodius, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

The committee is a joint effort of USDA and NASULGC. Members of the committee are representatives of USDA, State and local governments, universities, State extension administrators, local agents, extension users, and foundations supporting agricultural work. The second of four planned meetings will be held on April 22 and 23 in the Washington, D.C., area.

National Agricultural Library Reviews Its Role

The National Agricultural Library is bringing together a study team to consider the library's role and organizational placement within the Department. Administrators of nine USDA agencies, deans of land-grant universities, and directors of other national and State libraries will serve on the panel. The primary objectives will be to characterize the influences of USDA's organizational structure on the library's performance and to make recommendations concerning NAL's role in the USDA information system and in national and international library-information systems. The study is expected to be completed early in 1983.

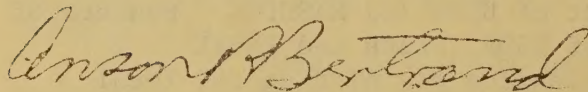
Inventory of Research and Education Programs

We are now completing an inventory of research and education programs related to food, fiber, and agriculture, conducted by Federal agencies other than USDA. We are in the final stages of analyzing and verifying 1981 information on the expenditures of 36 Federal agencies for agricultural science and education.

Agencies surveyed include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Departments of Labor, Treasury, Health and Human Services, Commerce, and many others.

The final report of this study will show the amount spent for teaching, research, and extension efforts, and it will also classify expenditures by categories in the new common program structure, such as natural resources, production and protection, people and communities, and so forth.

The report should be available late in March. I believe it will provide us with a better understanding of the scope of the U.S. food and agricultural science and education system.



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